

The Gumdrop House
By Maddie LaMear

There was once a village in a candy forest. This forest was filled with gingerbread trees, sugar crystal grass, gum drop rocks, assorted candy flowers, and other candy plants, and, of course, gingerbread men, women, and children living in gingerbread houses.

Now, you must understand. These were not ordinary, boring gingerbread houses with only a half-pound of candy, and they weren't made out of processed, shaped, gingerbread. Oh no! This was the real deal. The gingerbread was taken from felled gingerbread trees in the gingerbread forest and the houses were decorated with candy flowers and plants of all different shapes, sizes and tastes (i.e. Smarties, Nerds, Laffy Taffys, Reeses and more). The houses were amazingly adorned. You should have seen them during the Christmas season.

Now, in the center of the village there was a special house- The Gumdrop House. It was decorated with only gumdrops, but boy was it colorful! Blue, red, purple, yellow, green and pink gumdrops covered the entire house (except for doors and windows). In this house lived a family of five gingerbread people. The youngest child, a girl named Snickers, the middle child, a boy, named M&M's Dark (who was Goth), the oldest child, a girl named Sweetheart, the mother, Mama Hersheys, and the father, Poppa Lollipop.

There were many reasons why this house was so special. First of all, it was magical (only known to Snickers). Second of all, it was the only house in the entire village decorated entirely with gumdrops (which is why it was magical). And last, but

not least, the people who lived in it were extraordinarily kind. They all live happily until one day when Snickers noticed that three gumdrops were missing off the roof.

“Mama Hersheys,” she called, “we’re missing some gumdrops.”

“How many?” asked Mama Hersheys.

“Three,” she replied.

“I’ll get the ladder; you get the three gumdrops and the icing,” said Mama Hersheys.

“Okay,” said Snickers.

So they went up on the roof and placed a dollop of icing in the three spots, then carefully placed the three gumdrops.

But the next day, the small voice came again, “Mama Hersheys! Today, there are four gumdrops missing.”

“Sketchers!” said Mama Hersheys.

“Oh, Mama Hersheys, don’t say that.”

“I’m sorry, Snickers. I shouldn’t have said that. Well, let’s go patch it up. Same jobs as yesterday. OK?”

“Oh, Mama Hersheys, you know I can’t carry four gumdrops *and* the icing.”

“Then get your brother to help you,” said Mama Hersheys.

“Not M&M’s Dark. He’s always so, well...dark. Well, OK.” She went into the house, up the stairs and knocked on his door.

“What” a very tired voice answered.

“Can you help me carry the gumdrops and icing to patch our roof,” said Snickers.

“I’m doing my homework!”

“OK,” said Snickers. Then Snickers went to Sweetheart’s room but she was also doing homework. Papa Lollipop was working on their taxes, so she did what she always did. She asked The Gumdrop House.

Of course it said, “Yes!” And when she walked out to the side of the house there were four gumdrops and a huge bucket of icing just for her.

“Thanks Gumdrop House!”

“You’re welcome,” it said. They fixed it up and it seemed it would stay that way until, one day, a month or two later, again a gumdrop was missing. So, they patched it up. The next day they discovered it was happening at night, so that night they were ready and the thief was caught on tape. It had long, tan claws with a covering on the tips that were painted red. *A Human!* The next night Snickers and the whole gang stayed up and watched.

Finally, they saw the claws. Papa Lollipop stabbed the claws with his sharp candy cane sword (made sharp from licking the end to a point). The monster drew away. Then Papa Lollipop gave orders on instinct, “Girls, follow him. Double m, we’ll go from behind.”

Snickers, Mama Hersheys, and Sweetheart ran and ran until all at once they started to fall. Down they fell off the gingerbread world; they landed with a thump on something soft but firm. They spotted the monster and on his shoes in big, bold letters was the word SKETCHERS.

“Oh” said Snickers.

“Let’s get out of here.”

It was time. She must tell her mother about the secret powers of their house. Later- she decided. Because right then they had to get out of there, FAST! So she called on the House and suddenly they were back in the house, safe and sound.

When they arrived home Snickers told her mother about the house and all of its magical powers. She also told her of the many things it had done for her including the icing, and why they had suddenly just “poofed” back to their house. Her mother inquired why she had not told her before. She told her mother nothing but the truth. She explained that they might think she was cheating in house decorating school.

“Oh honey, you know we wouldn’t think that about you. Next time just tell us okay? Said Mama Hersheys.

“Okay” she answered.

The next day she needed help deciding on something. So she went to the wise, Old House. This decision was a big one. The power of the house rested in the gumdrops, but obviously the Human liked gumdrops. The House told her to decorate with only War Heads so that they would not taste good to the Human.

Snickers was worried about not having the House to help her, but also felt assured when House told her she would be fine. The next day she did what it told her to do and ‘wala’ the problem was gone... or so they thought. They found out that the monster loved War Heads. Then they tried many other types of candy and finally found the one that worked the best, Airheads. Airheads saved the family and their house (which by the way was changed back to all gum drops.)

Even though it took many years, the family learned to work together. If there is one thing the reader can learn from this story, it is that your family will be there for you.

And that your Heavenly Father will always be there for you as well.

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